

Wabash Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

\$3

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Tomorrow's weather **52 | 39**



Pulse of Wabash

Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution Wednesdays

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. Distribution is while supplies last. All are welcome, regardless of home county or reason for need. No IDs, proof of address or income will be required. If you are walking up or coming via a vehicle too small to carry a load of food, please plan to arrive an hour after the tailgate starts. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

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Craig Snow begins state representative term

Newly-elected Republican looks forward to the upcoming legislative session

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Craig Snow of Warsaw took the oath of office to serve as state representative for House District 18, which includes Wabash County and portions of Kosciusko, Grant and Miami counties.

Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush administered the oath

to all House lawmakers during a swearing-in ceremony in the House Chamber of the Statehouse during Organization Day, the formal start to the 2021 legislative session.

During a phone interview Monday, Nov. 23, Snow said the word he used to describe the first day of the session was "chaotic" due to the newly-imposed COVID-19 restrictions at the Statehouse.

"With COVID and spacing us apart the way we had to be. I was actually up on the balcony. We could only bring two guests with us. There was no press around for the most part. It was very limited this year. It was very interesting," said Snow. "I think everyone's learning the ropes. ... But, this is all brand new. Just being at the Statehouse is pretty awesome in itself. And being there for the reason of getting sworn in is even more."

See SNOW, page A4



Provided photo

State Rep.-elect Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, takes the oath of office during Organization Day at the Statehouse on Nov. 17.

New COVID-19 testing site now open

Wabash Friends Church hosting a free clinic for next two weeks

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Monday, Nov. 23, in the gymnasium of the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S. Indiana 13, Aaron Gabriel, who works in custodial and maintenance, was busy taping clear plastic sheets across the doorways on each side of the room.

"There's going to be just one entrance in and out of here," he said, pointing to a nearby door leading to the outside.

Gabriel was busy preparing that afternoon because starting the following morning and lasting for the next two weeks, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), along with the Wabash County Health Department and the Wabash Emergency Management Agency were once again offering a free COVID-19 testing clinic.

On Tuesday, Brandon Eaton, lead pastor of Wabash Friends Church, said Mayor Scott Long had contacted them on Wednesday, Nov. 18 with "an urgent request."

"Free COVID-19 testing has been happening for a while now in Wabash, but it has been set up as a drive-thru service. With winter coming, for this service to continue in our community, they need an indoor venue. Mayor Long, a member of our church family, asked if any part of our building could provide that place so that help could continue," said Eaton.

Eaton said their instinct was to help right away, but that they recognized logistical concerns would need to be addressed.

"We are a church that cares for our community, and this



Aaron Gabriel, who works in custodial and maintenance, tapes up plastic sheets on the doors to prepare for the new COVID-19 testing clinic at Wabash Friends Church.

need right now is undeniable. However, we did have to think through all the logistics. We had a lot of questions we needed to find answers to. In the end, as we looked at different pieces of the building, we decided to use our gym area for the testing site. It has a separate outside entrance. The surfaces there are easier to sanitize, and it has its self-contained HVAC system," said Eaton.

Eaton said the presence of

the testing site meant that whenever they resumed in-person services, those would be conducted in the sanctuary.

"The gym doors would all be off-limits, and there are a couple of Sunday school classes we would need to relocate. We felt though that this area, depending on how long it is needed, will cause the least amount of disruption if and when we can resume in-person ministry," said

Eaton. "We feel this decision falls in line with what Christ asks his church to be. We are salt and light, and we care for our community. We love others like Jesus loved us."

Second site to open in Wabash

On Monday, Oct. 26, Long said that the ISDH and the city of Wabash had opened

See CLINIC, page A2

ISDH reports 19th, 20th local virus deaths Tuesday

Mayor: City Hall restrictions likely to be extended

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 19th and 20th COVID-19 deaths in Wabash County.

Meanwhile, the skyrocketing local figures, including within City Hall, have caused Mayor Scott Long to consider extending current visitor restrictions at City Hall.

City Hall restrictions likely to be extended

During Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, Long said of the 13 people who work in City Hall, four have tested positive so far for COVID-19.

Earlier this month, Long closed Wabash City Hall to visitors except for appointments through Sunday.

See DEATHS, page A4

'Tis the season to shop small

On Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, help support local businesses

By ALINA REED
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

Wabash County is known for its close-knit community. With COVID-19, downtown shops have faced many challenges this past year. During this holiday season, businesses are finding ways to encourage members of the community to shop small. Some places are offering curbside pickup, shopping by appointment and local delivery as options for those who are uncomfortable with shopping in person.

On Saturday, downtown Wabash will take part in the 10th annual Small Business Saturday, an annual event first created by American Express in 2010.

Local business owners, including Darcy Vail, Bellazzo owner, said Small Business Saturday represents a unique opportunity to support the local economy. "My favorite part of Small Business Saturday is the joy," said Vail. "Customers vibe high knowing they are making a difference in that small business owner's life by supporting them, and, in turn, the business owner

is over the moon that we're able to help their customers with their needs. And hopefully, everyone just keeps paying it forward. Pure joy."

Wabash Marketplace is offering a "Shop Local to Win" promotion, according to Andrea Zwiebel, executive director. This is replacing the iconic "Stamping Map" event that Wabash county is used to. Through this new promotion, Wabash Marketplace will be giving away \$1,000 of Downtown Bucks for the duration of the next four weeks, through Sunday, Dec. 20. Shopping at participating businesses results in an entry towards the prize. The more one shops, the



Modoc's storefront Christmas décor was created by Katy Gray and Erica Tyson.

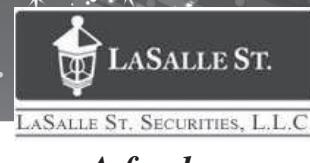
more entries they receive. Winners will be announced Mondays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. The prize amounts range from \$20 to \$100. Downtown

Bucks are also available to purchase in \$10 increments by visiting www.wabashmarketplace.org

See SHOPPING, page A4



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Manchester course puts learning in students' hands with 'transformative' results

The 106th annual convention of the National Communication Association held this month

By ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University faculty members and students were featured in sessions of the 106th annual convention of the National Communication Association this month.

Professor Mary Lahman and Associate Professor Tim McKenna-Buchanan presented their findings on research that included student stories from the 2019-20 academic year. Current MU students Kate Barrow and Megan Hite also participated in the panel recording.

With associates from Denison University in Ohio and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Lahman and McKenna-Buchanan collected stories about how students interpret the value of their learning and development over time. The researchers found evidence that personal goal-setting and group reflection can be transformative.

At Manchester, communication studies faculty encourage students to reflect on their learning experience throughout the semester. Students set their own learning goals, such as paying attention and asking questions, and they reflect on the goals at midterm to see what is going well. Students note how well they understand their listening habits, ask questions, and paraphrase to take control of their learning. Lahman says this often translates into students working on assignments earlier and better understanding expectations for those assignments.

"We found that when students take control of their learning, they build 'growth' mindsets, a belief that they can learn any subject," Lahman said. "Contrast this attitude with a 'fixed' mindset that they either 'have it or they don't' when it comes to learning certain subjects."

She said that students leave the Foundations of Human Communication course at Manchester with both new understanding and confidence. Lahman said they can start a conversation with someone they have never met before; are more comfortable in the college setting; know how to be empathetic; and they gain an understanding that they will have less miscommunication in their lives if they pay attention and use techniques that help them learn what other people mean.

In a second panel, Lahman also presented findings with associates from Christopher Newport University in Virginia, Indiana University



Provided photo
Professor Mary Lahman was one of the presenters at the convention.

East, Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) and the University of Nevada, Reno.

She collaborated with Assistant Professor Sarah LeBlanc from PFW to introduce faculty across institutions to be more intentional with their teaching reflections. For example, individual faculty members collect student stories throughout the semester, in addition to colleagues' stories about student learning during classroom and online observations.

"Those faculty members found a complex set of crossroads where students and teachers meet and negotiate learning rather than viewing learning as a single path," she said.

The all-virtual convention from Nov. 18 to 22 provided opportunities to examine and discuss future directions for research, teaching and the communication discipline itself.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

some students wear apparel adorned with Confederate flags, defendants prohibited D.E. from wearing his shirt.

"This violated the First Amendment and caused him injury. He wishes to wear the T-shirt to school," stated the complaint.

D.E. was in his first-period class, at the very beginning of school, on the day that he wore the T-shirt when his teacher received a call and indicated that he had to go to the office of the school's administration.

"His T-shirt had not caused any disruption among his fellow students," stated the complaint.

When D.E. came to the office of the school administration he was directed to the office of Dorey Mobley, assistant principal, who told him that "someone" had complained about his shirt. She did not say who and he has never been informed about who complained and the nature of the complaint. Mobley summoned Jon Lippe, principal, who looked at the T-shirt and indicated "that is not going to fly." Mobley and Lippe indicated that D.E. had to remove the shirt and Mobley informed him that he could not wear the shirt in school. Mobley gave him another T-shirt to change into and sent him to the restroom to change.

D.E. felt very strongly that he had the right to wear the shirt and to impart the information on the T-shirt to students and staff at the school. He, therefore, refused to change the T-shirt and instead called his mother. He returned to Mobley's office and told her that he would not change the shirt. Mobley said his mother would have to come to get him and he waited outside Mobley's office until his mother arrived. He left the school for the remainder of the school day.

"This incident was extremely upsetting to D.E.," stated the complaint. "D.E. continues to want to wear the T-shirt to school. He has been subjected to racial epithets in the school in the past from fellow students and he believes that the message of the t-shirt is an important one to transmit to students and staff and that the T-shirt makes an extremely important state-

ment. The T-shirt was not disruptive to the educational environment. Denying D.E. the ability to wear the T-shirt is causing him irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law."

Legal precedents

Falk said based on previously decided legal precedents, "there was no reason to censor this particular message."

Falk said the 1969 Supreme Court decision in the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* had established the "Tinker test" which allows free speech outside of "substantial disruptions."

"The primary role of the school is to teach. Therefore, you don't have the right to throw down your math books and start protesting. Although, Lord knows I would have wanted to if I had that opportunity. Because the primary responsibility is to teach. But, within that framework, as the Tinker court noted, if there is no disruption to the educational environment, then the student must be allowed to express themselves. Even if it's on something that's very controversial. Of course, Tinker dealt with anti-war armbands at the height of the Vietnam conflict," said Falk.

Falk said subsequent Supreme Court decisions had carved out exceptions to this rule, including censorship in student newspapers and messages that endorse illegal drugs. Falk said that those exceptions did not apply in this case.

"This does not fall within any of that. This is a pure Tinker situation," said Falk.

Falk said this case struck the ACLU as "being particularly problematic given the saliency of the message the young man was trying to get across," but that they had taken up other cases that expressed opposing political beliefs.

"I've represented the KKK," said Falk. "We believe in the constitution. We believe the Bill of Rights is something that everyone has the right to claim. We do not censor ourselves in that regard as an organization."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Even though the T-shirt did not cause disruption and other students regularly wear "Blue Lives Matter" and "MAGA" apparel supporting police and President Donald Trump, respectively, and

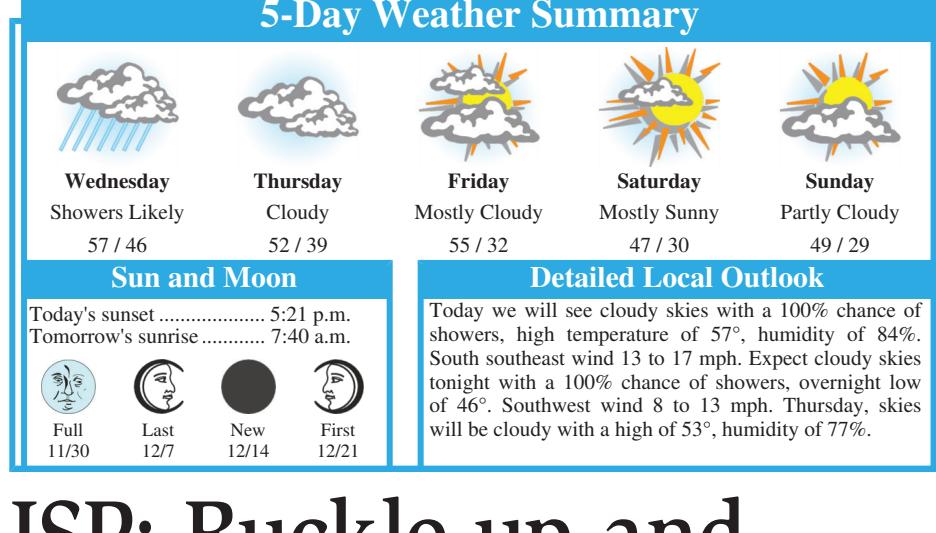
According to the complaint, D.E. is a junior at Manchester Jr-Sr High School. He is represented in this case by his mother and next friend, Dawn Eades. D.E. is one of the few students at the school who identifies as Black. At the beginning of the school year, he wore a T-shirt that said on its front, "I HOPE I DON'T GET KILLED FOR BEING BLACK TODAY." Even though the T-shirt did not cause disruption and other students regularly wear "Blue Lives Matter" and "MAGA" apparel supporting police and President Donald Trump, respectively, and

Details of the complaint

According to the complaint, D.E. is a junior at Manchester Jr-Sr High School. He is represented in this case by his mother and next friend, Dawn Eades.

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Even though the T-shirt did not cause disruption and other students regularly wear "Blue Lives Matter" and "MAGA" apparel supporting police and President Donald Trump, respectively, and



Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 100% chance of showers, high temperature of 57°, humidity of 84%. South southeast wind 13 to 17 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 100% chance of showers, overnight low of 46°. Southwest wind 8 to 13 mph. Thursday, skies will be cloudy with a high of 53°, humidity of 77%.

ISP: Buckle up and designate a sober driver

Traffic fatalities are up 9 percent from this time last year

STAFF REPORT

Thanksgiving is normally one of the busiest travel times of the year. While the pandemic may have impacted plans with family this year, the Indiana State Police (ISP) wants to remind motorists who plan to travel during the holiday season to buckle up and drive sober, according to Sgt. Tony Slocum, public information officer for ISP Peru Post.

"Due to the pandemic, troopers expect fewer travelers during this Thanksgiving holiday. Even with fewer travelers, vehicle traffic will still be increased over a normal day. Precautions like wearing a seat belt and designating a sober driver should be practiced, said Lt. TJ Zeiser, ISP Peru Post

commander. "Let's work together to make sure everyone gets to their planned destination safely."

Many traffic deaths and injuries could be prevented by wearing a seat belt. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 1975 to 2017, seat belts have saved an estimated 374,196 lives.

While Indiana's seat belt usage rate is above 90 percent, more than half of the people who were killed in motor vehicle crashes last year were not buckled up.

Drinking and driving is also deadly and completely preventable. Every day, almost 30 people in the U.S. die in drunk driving crashes, NHTSA data shows. That's approximately one person every 50 minutes.

In Indiana, there were 106 people killed in alcohol-impaired collisions in 2019, representing 13 percent of the state's traffic fatalities.

"In a year when miles traveled are down, traffic fatalities are up 9 percent from this time last year," said Rob Duckworth, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Traffic Safety Director.

"Slower speeds and wearing seat belts are two of the best ways to prevent further fatalities, along with driving sober."

Vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death for kids between the ages of 8 and 15. For families with children, it's important to have a properly installed child safety seat or booster seat for each child. Parents may visit www.childseat.in.gov for a list of locations and a toll-free phone number to speak with experts about the proper installation of child safety seats.

Troopers ask Hoosiers to report suspected impaired or aggressive drivers by calling 911. Give a location, vehicle description, and direction of travel. Never follow an impaired or aggressive driver.

CLINIC

From page A1

a free drive-thru clinic for COVID-19 testing at the Wabash City Police Department headquarters. That clinic was open from Tuesday, Oct. 27 to Saturday, Oct. 31, and also from Tuesday, Nov. 3 to Saturday, Nov. 7. Testing was available to everyone regardless of symptoms. Children as young as 2 years of age could be tested with parental consent. Long said Hoosiers were not charged for testing and insurance was not required.

After being open for two weeks, that testing clinic closed up shop, but not before over 1,000 residents were tested.

On Friday, Nov. 20, Long said Wabash Friends Church had offered a portion of their facility to set up the testing site, on the north side of the building. Signs will be in place directing those wishing to be tested which way to enter. The testing will be offered from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 and Wednesday, Nov. 25. There will be no testing available on Thursday, Nov. 26 due to Thanksgiving. The clinic will reopen from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27 and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28.

Long said the clinic would be open again from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1 to Saturday, Dec. 5.

"You must wear a mask to



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The clinic will be open for the next two weeks.

enter the testing site and it must remain on at all times unless staff directs you to lower it during the test," said Long. "There is no charge for the testing, however, you may be asked for insurance

information. This testing is available to anyone from the area, not just Wabash or Wabash County residents.

We are pleased to assist the ISDH with holding this testing clinic and are blessed to be able to partner with Wabash Friends Church."

Otherwise, the ISDH only lists one testing site available in Wabash County, which is the Parkview FirstCare Walk-In Clinic, 1655 Cass St., Wabash. An appointment is required and it is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Patients must be symptomatic to be tested. Insurance co-pay, credit card and cash are accepted for payment. For

more information, call 877-774-8632.

Other sites available

In addition to the site at Wabash Friends Church, the ISDH will offer free drive-thru testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday this week. All drive-thru sites will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday, including:

■ Clay County Testing, 911 Bonnie Geyne Miller Drive, Brazil.

■ St. Timothy Church – Gary, 1600 W. 25th Ave., Gary.

■ Batesville Fire Department, 115 E. Catherine St., Batesville.

To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Wabash Plain Dealer

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Obituaries

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LaVicie Mae Weaver Runkle

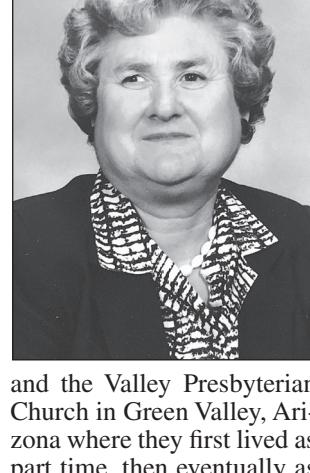
Sept. 30, 1935 - Nov. 17, 2020

LaVicie Mae Weaver Runkle went to her eternal home with the Lord and Savior on November 17, 2020.

LaVicie was born September 30, 1935 in Wabash Co Indiana to Arthur and Cleo Weaver. She graduated from Urbana High School near Wabash Indiana in 1954. She married Dean Runkle August 1956 and they enjoyed 57 years together. Dean preceded her in death August 2013. They had one daughter Karen (Craig) Snyder of Monument, Colorado; and two grandchildren, Matthew Snyder of Flagstaff, Arizona, and Brooke (Davin) Duke of Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is survived by one sister, Lois (Bill) Rettig of Wabash, Indiana. Donna Weaver Unger Harstine preceded her in death June 2007.

LaVicie developed a love of travel, photography, and adventure that she pursued throughout her life. She gave her heart and soul as a volunteer for People to People, serving on the International Board of Directors for eight years and as a Trustee for People to People International for many years. She lived and breathed their mission of "peace through understanding." She loved meeting people and cultivated an endless number of lifelong friendships that she kept dear to her heart throughout all her years.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in LaPorte, Indiana,



and the Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley, Arizona where they first lived as part time, then eventually as full-time residents.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 28, 2020, at Frank L Keszei Funeral Home, Essling Chapel, 1117 Indiana Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00-11:00 am. Burial will follow at Pine Lake Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to People to People International Travel Programs for Students People to People, First United Methodist Church in LaPorte Give Laporte First United Methodist Church (laportefumc.org) or Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley Valley Presbyterian Church – Home.

Please share prayers, condolences, and memories with the family at Essling Funeral Home.com.

Jerome Dean 'J.D.' Smith

Jan. 12, 1938 - Nov. 23, 2020

Jerome Dean "J.D." Smith, 82, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 4:20 am, Monday, November 23, 2020 at Parkview Wabash Hospital. He was born January 12, 1938 in Peru, Indiana, to Thelba Ira and Lois (Sebree) Smith.

J.D. was a graduate of Butler Township High School in Miami County, Indiana, and received his degree in Aerospace Engineering from Pan Am International Flight Academy in Florida. He married Mary Ellen Bolinger in Peru, Indiana on July 20, 1958; she died August 19, 2020. J.D. worked at RCA in Marion, retiring after 45 years, and was a lay pastor for 50 years. He was a member of the Wabash Alliance Church and attended the Treaty Church of Christ. J.D. was an active member of Gideons International and also handed out Bibles. He was a former director of the Wabash County Life Center and was involved in Wabash County Prison Ministries. J.D. loved serving the Lord, and enjoyed farming and watching high school sports.

He is survived by three sons, Drew A. (Kelly) Smith, of Wabash, Stuart G. (Michelle) Smith of Carmel, Indiana, and Brian E. (Tere) Smith of Wabash. Seven grandchildren, Aaron (Christine) Smith



of Laketon, Indiana, Danielle Smith of Muncie, Indiana, Alexandria Smith of Noblesville, Indiana, Katelyn (Corey) VanDuyne and Shane Smith, both of Wabash, Katherine Smith of Noblesville, and Tyler Smith of Dallas, Texas, great-granddaughter, Shadie Richter of Laketon, and sister, Lynette (James) Blackman of Hertford, North Carolina. He was also preceded in death by his parents.

Due to the Covid pandemic and J.D.'s request services will be private to the family. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

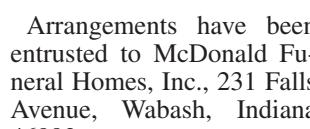
Preferred memorial is Gideons International.

The memorial guest book for J.D. may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Robert L. Miller

Robert L. Miller, 89, a lifetime resident of North Manchester, passed away at 4:00 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2020 at Coventry Meadows Healthcare in Fort Wayne.

Per Robert's request, there will be no funeral services.



Arrangements have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, Inc., 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Jennifer Sue Davis Butcher

Funeral services for Jennifer Sue Davis Butcher, 43, of Wabash, are 10:30 am, Friday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Visitation is from 4-7 pm Wednesday, at the funeral home.

Rhea Mae Allenstein Hoppes

March 9, 1939 - Nov. 18, 2020

Rhea Mae Allenstein Hoppes, 81, of Peru passed away at 5:21 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne.

Born on March 9, 1939 in Gadsden, Alabama, she was the daughter of the late Leslie and Verna (Sherren) Allenstein. She was baptized on May 14, 1939 and confirmed on June 1, 1952. She was a graduate of Gadsden High School and a 1961 graduate of Valparaiso University with a degree in Speech and Drama. She attended Purdue University for post-graduate courses in speech education.

Rhea married Marion G. Hoppes on June 1, 1963 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Gadsden, AL.

Rhea was a retired Speech and Drama teacher from Bunker Hill High School and assistant Speech Coach from Maconaquah High School where she was recognized as a Three Diamond Coach by the National

Infant Forensic League (NFL).

She joyfully coached her own daughters during their speech team years and had a passion for instilling confidence and poise in all her students, coaching many to national finals. In 2009, Rhea was inducted into the Indiana High School Forensic Association Coaches Hall of Fame. Many students have given Rhea credit for changing the trajectory of their lives because of her tutelage and encouragement.

She was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church where she dedicated her time to serving in various ways and participating in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Many remember her for her dedication to directing the St. John's Lutheran Church Easter Pageant. She was known for having a smile on her face and going out of her way to make others feel



welcomed, included and engaged.

Through the years Rhea also worked with Dollars for Scholars, served as a volunteer for CASA and other organizations in the community.

Survivors include her

daughters, Thea Scheblo

(David) of Peru and Leah

Hoppes (Sean Whitfield)

of Utica, Illinois; grandson,

Nate Scheblo; step grandson,

Sean Michael Whitfield

and brother, Myron K.

Allenstein (Gloria) of Gadsden, Alabama. Many nieces,

nephews and extended family members in Indiana and Alabama.

Rhea was also preceded in death by her husband, Marion G. Hoppes.

Private family services will be held and Rhea's service will be live streamed at 10 AM Monday, November 23, 2020 at Riverview Funeral Home Face Book Page.

Burial will be at Roann Community Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to: St. John's Lutheran Church, Peru, Indiana, LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) and/or The Hoppes Memorial Scholarship Fund through Northern Indiana Community Foundation.

Rhea's online guestbook is available and condolences can be shared at www.riverviewperu.com.

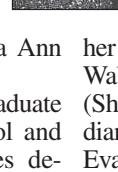
Julia Sue Evans

May 28, 1954 - Nov. 19, 2020

Julia Sue Evans, 66, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 9:00 pm, Thursday, November 19, 2020 at her home. She was born May 28, 1954 in Toledo, Ohio, to Howard and Patricia Ann (Berner) Powell.

Julie was a 1972 graduate of Wabash High School and received her Associates degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. She married Joe Lee Evans in Wabash on May 4, 1974. Julie was the treasurer at Wabash High School, and also worked for Beauchamp-McSpadden Insurance, General Tire, Wabash Incorporated, and North Central Co-Op.

She was a member of the Alpha Pi Omega Sorority. Julie enjoyed reading, going to movies, motorcycle riding,



snowmobiling, being with her friends, loved her schnauzer dogs, and especially enjoyed spending time with her grandson Jayden.

She is survived by her husband, Joe Evans of

Wabash, son, Tyler Joseph

(Sherilyn) Evans of Peru, Indiana, her grandson, Jayden Evans of Wabash, Indiana, brother, Howard (Stacey) Powell of Tarpon Springs, Florida, sister, Laura Powell of Wabash, and her nephew, Dawson Powell of Tarpon Springs, Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents.

There will be no services.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

The memorial guest book for Julia may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Joyce Marlene Wildman

Feb. 10, 1944 - Nov. 19, 2020

Joyce Marlene Wildman, 76, of Bradenton, Florida, died Thursday, November 19, 2020 at Bradenton Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Florida.

She was born February 10, 1944 in Roann, Indiana, to Russell and Naomi (Eckerly) Rogers.

Joyce married Robert Wildman on March 13, 1993. She was a district secretary of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for Ryer Trucking 35 years.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Wildman, Sr.

of Bradenton, four children,

Andrea "Andee" (Sonny) Nemitz, Paula Swary, Tracy Ripple, and Robert L. Wildman, Jr., nine grandchildren,



Simone Swary, Jordan

Wildman, Tyler Syndram,

Seth Syndram, Aleah Swary, Brigit

Tucker, Kaitlyn Ripple,

Kameron Ripple, and Natalie Syndram, 2 great grandchildren,

Gwenyth Syndram and Ezra

Tucker, sister and brothers,

Alice Graffis of Fort Wayne,

Indiana, Don Rogers of Ashville,

North Carolina, Terry

Rogers of Lafayette, Indiana,

and Phil Rogers of Bozeman,

Montana. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements by Grand-

staff-Hentgen Funeral Ser-

vice, Roann, Indiana.

The memorial guest book for

Joyce may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Clarence L. Biltz, Jr.

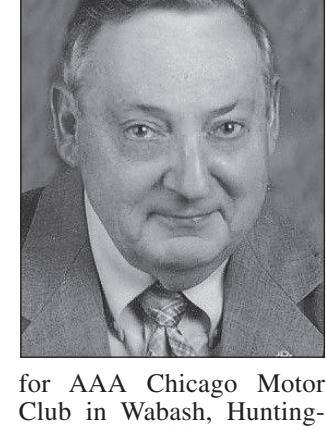
July 29, 1932 - Nov. 23, 2020

Clarence L. Biltz, Jr., 88, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 10:06 am, Monday, November 23, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. He was born on July 29, 1932 in Warsaw, Indiana, to Clarence and Margaret (Timko) Biltz.

Clarence married Carolyn Joan Bellock on June 9, 1952 at St. Bernard Catholic Church by Father Leo A. Hoffman. Clarence was a retired city police officer and at his retirement founded Biltz Insurance, Real Estate and Bail Bonding Agency. He was a combat

veteran of the Korean War having served in the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. He also served with the United Nation Parachute infantry and the 3rd Infantry Division. He was a life member of the 82nd Airborne Division, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a Past Commander of the American Legion Post #15, a member of La Societe Des 40 Hommes Et 8 Gheyeauk, past Master, former Secretary and Life member of Wabash Hanna Lodge #61, a member of the Mizpah Shrine Temple, and was a 4th Degree Knight and life member of the Knights of Columbus. Clarence was a charter signing member of the Wabash Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #83.

He attended the first police school at Purdue University, class of 1958. Clarence was a member of the Wabash Moose Lodge, former member of the Wabash Rotary Club, and a member and former Eucharistic Minister of St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church. During his lifetime he managed insurance offices



for AAA Chicago Motor Club in Wabash, Huntington, Grant and the surrounding counties, and was the local agent for AFLAC. Clarence also managed several furniture stores in Grant county.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Joan Biltz, five children, Donald K. Biltz, Jeffrey L. Biltz, Matthew A.B. Biltz, Michele L. (Charles Parr) Biltz, and Kimberly F. (Brandon) Moore, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and sister, Helenjean Goff. He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Christopher, daughter, Theresa, four brothers, Walter, Robert, Harold, and David, and sister, Betty Brown.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic there will be no immediate services. A public service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Bernard Catholic Church.

The memorial guest book for Clarence may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Lucy A. Tudor Sundheimer

Oct. 5, 1939 - Nov. 22, 2020

Lucy A. Tudor Sundheimer, 81, of Urbana, Indiana, died at 12:33 pm, Sunday, November 22, 2020 at Parkview Wabash Hospital. She was born October 5, 1939 in Wynne, Arkansas, to Jeff D. and Bessie (McCrory) Hall.

Lucy married R. William "Bill" Tudor on March 21, 1964; he died September 3, 1989. She then married Carl Sundheimer in Urbana on May 25, 1996; he died October 1, 2012. She worked at Bertsch Vending in Wabash and also drove school bus for Metropolitan School District of Wabash County. Lucy attended the Urbana Yoke Parish. She enjoyed reading, working in her yard and her flower garden, and spending time with her family.

Monster truck museum moving in northern Indiana

BUTLER (AP) — A shrine to the best drivers and builders in the history of monster truck competition is relocating from one northern Indiana town to another.

The International Monster Truck Museum and Hall of Fame, currently housed at Kruse Plaza in Auburn, is moving to the former Eagles lodge in Butler, museum president Jeff Cook announced Nov. 14.

The 12,700-square-foot building — which has been vacant since February 2018 — will allow the museum to expand and display more than a dozen of its historic monster trucks, as well as monster trucks currently used on tour, once

renovated.

With the move, Cook said he hopes the museum will also serve as a stopping point for monster truck drivers who are traveling to different shows.

"This has a lot of potential," Cook said in the museum's announcement. "This is going to be for the whole monster truck family. We want this to be for generations upon generations down the road to tell the story of how monster trucks have brought joy to our lives."

A monster truck parade is planned for next spring, in addition to an open house sometime in May or June, Cook said.

SHOPPING

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or in-person at the Visit Wabash County building, 221 S. Miami St.

Black Friday sales will start Friday, Nov. 27 followed by the Small Business Saturday event on Saturday, Nov. 28.

"Businesses will be hosting their best sales of the year during this time," said Zwiebel.

Zwiebel said another downtown tradition is the Holiday Window Display Contest hosted by Wabash Marketplace.

Two local art teachers, Katy Gray and Erica Tyson — of Metro North Elementary School and Southwood Elementary School, respectively — helped with decorating Modoc's storefront for this contest. They decided on "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" for the theme this year.

"Most everyone has either watched or knows of this movie. We are finding out for many that watching this movie each holiday season has become a family tradition and if it's not, maybe it should be. Everyone needs a fun, silly movie in their life," said Kelly Thompson, Modoc's Market

manager.

Thompson said these two elementary art teachers spent their fall break making the RV out of a refrigerator box, writing out blurbs from the movie "but having to make some of those family-friendly, of course, and creating all the little detailed pieces sprinkled throughout our windows."

"If you look closely, the detail is incredible," said Thompson. "They spend countless hours on these projects outside of school let alone all the time they spend at home on art projects for their classrooms. Both have their art studios and unique art work. They are an asset to the children in our community and share their artistic talent with us that is then enjoyed by those visiting downtown Wabash."

Zwiebel said to keep crowds to a minimum, this year's voting for the Holiday Window Display contest will take place online at www.wabashmarketplace.org. Voting opens at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 and will close Sunday, Nov. 29, at midnight. The winner will be announced Monday, Nov. 30.

Alina Reed, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at alreeds@wabashplaindealer.com.

revenue data.

"The revenues are being delayed. Taxes have been delayed being paid, which is part of the revenue for the state," said Snow.

Other issues

Snow said this year he would also look to be involved with the redistricting process, which is also set to begin after the 2020 Census is finalized.

"I don't know what that entails, or what activity I'll even be apart of with that. But, that's the other thing that as an assembly we have to get done," said Snow.

Snow said besides the budget and redistricting, he would be seeking to work on issues related to health care, which he has first-hand experience as a businessman juggling.

"With my own company, it's a huge chunk of my budget goes to health care. And so trying to figure out that, I know we're not the best state in the country. Our costs are more expensive than the majority of the states in the country. So, hopefully, there's something we can do there," said Snow.

Like other Republicans in the Statehouse, Snow said he hoped to have more of a voice regarding Gov. Eric Holcomb's many executive orders issued over the past few months in response to the pandemic.

"Being a business owner I always bring in the people that surround me when I've got issues I've got to deal with," said Snow. "It doesn't mean I'll take all their opinions, but I'll at least hear what they have to say. I'm learning what the executive order was there for, you've got to allow whoever's in charge to be able to make quick, fast, efficient decision-making protocols to get things moving. But, after 30, 60 days I think at some point you've got to pull in your advisers, or in our case pulling legislators. I'd be on the side that says hey you need to start including us on this stuff."

Holcomb has so far not reconvened the legislature since issuing the initial stay-at-home orders in March. Snow said he hoped that since the legislators were now at their posts in the Statehouse they could have a say.

"You're basically making decisions that are impacting our constituents," said Snow. "I don't know that he overstepped his bounds when it first began. Because nobody knew what we were dealing with. We were scared to death of our hospitals filling up and that kind of stuff, but at some point — say April, May, even June — I would have pulled people back into chambers and said, 'Hey, guys this is what we're dealing with, what's everybody's thinking here?'"

Snow said it would be a "big job" to pass a "balanced, responsible" budget.

"I enjoy numbers and that kind of thing. So, I'm hopeful I can be a part of that," said Snow. "Of all the different boards I've been on that's the part that I enjoy, figuring out how to make something work with the money you've got."

Snow said legislators had already been told they should not plan any family vacations in May and June due to delayed budget and

DEATHS

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Nov. 30.

Long said that policy would likely be continued past the end of the week.

"I am anticipating as I look at the positivity numbers, (I) may be extending that closure of City Hall to appointment-only just for that simple fact. Our positivity rate keeps climbing daily," said Long. "We still have employees who are quarantined because they've been in contact with a spouse or somebody who has tested positive."

Long said department heads were encouraging people not to hang out in large groups and take other safety precautions.

"Some of the COVID cases that we're seeing are very symptomatic and they are sick from it. So, I'm doing my best to take it seriously from this chair as far as our employees go," said Long. "And I would encourage all of you and you're out in public and you go into a public building, I think everyone is doing this, but wear a mask, please. The appearance of us city council members not wearing one into a business is not good for the community."

School figures

The ISDH's latest school dashboard results are as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 and were updated Monday, Nov. 23. The dashboard is updated weekly at midnight Mondays.

Statewide, 220 schools reported no cases, 1,755 reported one or more cases and 391 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only Saint Bernard Elementary School and White's Jr./Sr. High School have reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, fewer than five new staff positive cases, 18 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five each new teacher positive cases, new staff positive cases, total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Intermediate School (MIS) reported fewer than five total student positive cases.

■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new staff positive cases, 16 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbors Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, new teacher positive cases, total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases.

■ Wabash Middle School reported

seven new student positive cases and seven total student positive cases.

■ Wabash High School reported fewer than five new student positive cases, seven total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total student positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each new staff positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

On the Manchester Community Schools' (MCS) own dashboard the information is updated once contact tracing is complete and all close contacts have been notified. MCS defines close contact is when an individual is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19.

"The Wabash County Health Department determined close contacts in conjunction with school personnel and advised us who to quarantine," stated MCS.

The individually reported MCS cases include:

■ Sept. 28: One case each at MES and MHS, with five people quarantined.

■ Oct. 10: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

■ Oct. 14: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Oct. 15: One case at MES, with five people quarantined. And one case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Oct. 16: One case at MHS, with 34 people quarantined.

■ Oct. 20: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined.

■ Oct. 21: One case at MIS, with one person quarantined.

■ Oct. 28: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined.

■ Nov. 2: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Nov. 3: Two cases at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Nov. 4: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 4: One case at MIS with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 5: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 6: One case at MES, and one case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Nov. 8: One case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 9: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 10: Three cases at MHS, with three people quarantined; and one case at MES, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 13: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

■ Nov. 14: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

■ Nov. 16: Two cases at MHS, with seven people quarantined; one case at MCS Transportation including all schools in the district, with 25 people quarantined; and one case at MHS, with five people quarantined.

■ Nov. 17: One case at MES, with 22 people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with four people quarantined.

■ Nov. 19: One case at MHS, with six people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined.

■ Nov. 20: Two cases at MHS, with 15 people quarantined.

■ Nov. 22: One case at MES, with 11 people quarantined.

Schools of higher learning are not listed on the ISDH schools dashboard. However, Manchester University maintains its own, separate dashboard.

"As planned from the beginning of the academic year, on Monday, Nov. 23, students transitioned to remote learning and have left campus to complete the semester. We have paused testing until students return to campus next semester. The data below represents the fall semester totals," stated the school's dashboard.

As of Tuesday, Nov. 24, there had been 1,987 tests performed, with 98.3 percent of those being negative, and 1.7 percent being positive. Also, there had been 36 self-reported cases on the North Manchester campus, and nine on the Fort Wayne campus.

Local figures

On Saturday, the ISDH reported 49 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 1,414, with 9,152 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.6 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 26.6 percent.

On Sunday, the ISDH reported 68 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 1,481, with 9,268 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.2 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 27.9 percent.

On Monday, the ISDH reported 51 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 1,530, with 9,398 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.1 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 28.5 percent.

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported 29 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 1,580, with 9,475 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.7 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 28.4 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 5,702 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 306,538 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day's dashboard.

A total of 5,169 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 103 from the previous day. Another 266 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 2,107,744 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,090,728 on Monday. A total of 3,976,683 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

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Laketon American Legion announces new serving schedule

The Laketon American Legion has a new schedule for serving breakfast and lunch. The new schedule is from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 10140 N. Troyer Road, Laketon. Reservations are now being taken for their Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26. For more information, call 260-901-1150 or 260-306-0072.

BMV announces Thanksgiving holiday closure

All Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) branches will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours on Saturday, Nov. 28. For a complete list of branch locations and hours, to complete an online transaction, or to find a 24-hour BMV Connect kiosk near you visit IN.gov/BMV.

ISP Peru Post is participating in Click It or Ticket

Troopers working from the Indiana State Police (ISP) Peru Post will be increasing seat belt enforcement through Sunday, Nov. 29 as part of the national Click It or Ticket cam-

paign. For more information, visit therightseat.com or www.childseat.in.gov.

NMHS plans 'Market @ the Museum' event

The staff at the North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) has been working on its last event for 2020, "Market @ the Museum." Area artisans are going to be selling their wares from Dec. 1 to 12. Booths will be spaced throughout our main floor giving plenty of area for social distancing. Masks will be required while in the museum. Market hours will be the same as the regular museum hours, which are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

DivorceCare meeting weekly

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, "features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery." The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 S. State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Leader Janet Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p

Sports

A5

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

[WabashPlainDealer.com](#)

Bluffton edges Manchester on Saturday in women's basketball

The Spartans will return to action following the holiday break in January 2021

By DILLON BENDER

Playing their final game before the holiday break, the Manchester University Spartans were edged by Bluffton University, 66-62, in women's basketball action in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Spartans opened Saturday's game with a 9-0 run. The Black and Gold's hot start was highlighted by solid offensive execution on one end of the floor and stingy defense on the other end.

Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, and Bailey Keim, from Denver, Indiana and North Miami High School, knocked in jumpers to begin the game for Manchester. Hannah Lindsey, from Speedway, scored Manchester's next five points, capping the 9-0 run with a three-pointer at the 5:56 mark of the first period. Manchester shot 7-16 from the field in the opening 10 minutes, good enough for a 43.8 percent clip.

Defensively, Manchester held Bluffton to just 2-17 (11.8 percent) shooting from the field in the opening peri-

od. MU led the visiting Beavers, 18-8, at the end of the first quarter.

Foul trouble hurt the Spartans' rotation in the second quarter and Bluffton erupted for 28 points on the strength of 68.8 percent (11-16) shooting from the field. Bluffton's second-quarter outburst was boosted by 10 points from forward Emma Saltzman and a trio of three-pointers from guard Sammy Shardo.

Manchester went cold in the second quarter, shooting 5-15 from the floor. Bluffton took a five-point lead at the half, 36-31.

The Beavers opened the third quarter with a 5-0 run to stretch their lead into double digits. Manchester remained close, as a Bailey Keim jump shot at the 3:43 mark of the period saw the Spartans trailing by just four points, 41-37.

Bluffton University again pushed its advantage into double digits in the fourth quarter; however, the Spartans remained just close enough to press the Beavers down the stretch. Bluffton took advantage of its opportunities at the free-throw line, collecting 13 of its 17 fourth-quarter points from the charity stripe. Manchester converted just 4 of 10 foul shot attempts in the final period.

For the game, Manchester finished 24-62 (38.7 percent) from the floor

and 5-21 (23.8 percent) from three-point territory. Bluffton shot 19-58 (32.8 percent) and 6-18 (33.3 percent) from downtown. Manchester held a 45-40 edge on the glass on Saturday. Bluffton held a sizable edge at the free-throw line, shooting 22-31 to Manchester's 9-15. The Beavers also converted 20 Spartan turnovers into 19 points.

Hannah Lindsey led Manchester University with her first career double-double. Lindsay scored a career-best 20 points, while grabbing 10 rebounds. Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, scored a career-high 15 points on Saturday afternoon. Bieghler added seven rebounds. Bailey Keim finished with 14 points, three rebounds, three assists, and three steals. Macy Miller grabbed a career-best 11 rebounds.

Sammy Shardo led Bluffton with 18 points. Shardo made five three-pointers. Emma Saltzman finished with 14 points and six boards.

Manchester concludes the first portion of its 2020-21 schedule with a record of 0-5. Bluffton improved to 4-0 with the win.

The Spartans will return to action following the holiday break in January 2021.

Dillon Bender is sports information director for Manchester University.

Rookies make big impact as Colts stay in playoff contention

By MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — As safety Julian Blackmon studied his new Indianapolis Colts playbook last spring, one thought kept running through his mind: Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Even though he was still rehabbing from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee; even though he slid to the third round of the draft because of an injury suffered during the Pac-12 title game; even though COVID-19 forced the cancellation of offseason workouts and he missed training camp, Blackmon believed he could win it.

"I sat down and literally wrote Defensive Rookie of the Year all over my playbook because that's what I want," he said after forcing the game-changing fumble in Indy's 34-31 overtime victory over Green Bay. "I truly believe that's a talent that I have that I can help bring to this team. It's definitely been on my radar."

Pro Bowl linebacker Darius Leonard, the 2018 Defensive Rookie of the Year, started the lobbying effort Sunday.

Blackmon has played in eight games and made seven starts since replacing the injured Malik Hooker in the lineup. The former Utah cornerback has 26 tackles with two for losses, intercepted two passes, has six passes defensed and the key forced

fumble in a crucial win.

He's not the only young player making an impact for the Colts (7-3).

Second-round pick Michael Pittman Jr. has 14 receptions for 223 yards over the last three games, celebrating his first career score with a nifty 45-yard catch-and-run against the Packers.

Jonathan Taylor, another second-rounder, had 22 carries for 90 yards and caught four passes for 24 yards – his most productive game in a month and perhaps his best game this season.

After Blackmon forced the fumble and DeForest Buckner, who the Colts acquired in a March trade for their first-round pick, recovered it, undrafted rookie kicker Rodrigo Blankenship made the winning field goal.

"Pitt was great offensively. All of those other guys you mentioned were big time, too," eight-time Pro Bowl quarterback Philip Rivers said. "It's a heck of a rookie class."

They seem to be thriving at a time many rookies tend to wear down, and the Colts know they'll need each rookie to keep producing to make a deep playoff run.

"Nobody's doing what he (Blackmon) is doing," Leonard said. "He's making big-time plays in big-time situations. That's what you're supposed to do. He's not playing like a rookie."

What's working

Takeaways. The Colts

forced four more turnovers Sunday, including two game-changing fumbles in the second half – against a foe known for protecting the ball. Indy is tied for second in the league with 17 takeaways.

What needs help

Closing out games. Indianapolis secured an enormous win after nearly giving it away with five holding calls and six total penalties on its final possession of regulation. The sequence let Green Bay get the ball with one timeout and 85 seconds left on the clock. Aaron Rodgers led the Packers to the tying field goal with 3 seconds left.

"I'm disappointed, that we didn't put it away," coach Frank Reich said. "I didn't get a look at the calls, all I know is we've got to coach that better and play that better."

Stock up

QB Jacoby Brissett. Reich has been trying to get Brissett on the field all season. This week, Brissett found his niche in short-yardage situations. Don't be surprised if that package continues to be deployed, with the coaching staff adding some new wrinkles in future games.

Stock down

OL Le'Raven Clark. The fifth-year veteran long ago cemented his role as a key backup. He replaced injured

left tackle Anthony Castonzo in a loss to Cleveland but struggled against Myles Garrett. This time, he replaced right tackle Braden Smith (thumb) and struggled again, and Chaz Green took some snaps away from Clark.

Injured

Rivers hurt the big toe on his right foot early in the fourth quarter. He said afterward that he expects to make his 235th consecutive start when the Colts host Tennessee in a key AFC South showdown next weekend. If he does, Rivers will pass Eli Manning for the 10th-longest streak of consecutive starts in league history. But Rivers may need some extra time in the training room this week.

"I talked to him today, obviously, it was pretty sore," Reich said Monday. "We'll see what happens."

Key number

140 – The Colts rushed for 140 yards Sunday, their second-highest total this season. They've run for 273 yards over the past two weeks, their best two-game stretch this season, and now have four straight 100-yard games.

Next steps

Indy is 2-1 during this crucial four-game stretch and can secure the inside track to a division title by sweeping the season series from the Titans.

Purdue perplexed after questionable call

By MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

Purdue All-American receiver Rondale Moore finally made his season debut Friday night – just as starting quarterback Aidan O'Connell sat out with an undisclosed injury.

And after asking the Big Ten for an explanation on a late offensive pass interference call that took away the Boilermakers' go-ahead score at Minnesota, Brohm finally heard back from the league office. He just couldn't share the response publicly.

"I'm not at liberty to speak about those conversations," he said Monday. "I can say this – of all the people that I've talked to, there hasn't been one that doesn't totally

agree with my assessment of the play."

While an angry Brohm shouted at the officials on the sideline, he took a more delicate approach in his postgame news conference – only strongly suggesting the refs got it wrong.

But those new twists only add to the oddity an already strange season.

Purdue (2-2) won its first season opener under Brohm while he was quarantining at home following a positive COVID-19 test. Two weeks later, the Boilermakers got an unexpected bye courtesy of a virus outbreak that led to the cancellation of the Wisconsin game.

O'Connell got hurt in a loss to Northwestern in the Boilermakers' next game and on Monday, Brohm broke with

his customary strategy of not naming a starting quarterback until game day.

"Yes," he said when asked if Jack Plummer would start again this week in place of O'Connell. "Aidan's got an injury that we're going to try to get him back as fast as we can, and we'll see when that is. I don't know the timetable."

But it was Friday's post-game events still stirring the discussion Monday.

In addition to the questionable call and subsequent game-sealing interception thrown by Plummer, Moore issued a statement in which he apologized for becoming a distraction. He said he had asked Brohm to keep his hamstring injury under wraps.

Moore appeared in his first

game in nearly 14 months and was his usual electrifying self.

"I'm sure he probably had some soreness and we'll gauge that as this week goes on," Brohm said. "It's the first time he's really seen that extensive action for a while."

Meanwhile, kicker J.D. Dillingham offered another apology to Purdue fans on his Twitter account after one field-goal attempt was blocked and another, which would have tied the score at 34, sailed wide right.

"I missed a kick I should make every time and deserve all the blame and hate coming my way," he wrote. "Although I can't take it back, I promise that I will do everything in my power to make sure it doesn't happen again."

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	3	0	.700	272	265
Miami	6	4	0	.600	264	202
New England	4	6	0	.400	209	238
N.Y. Jets	0	10	0	.149	302	302

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	7	3	0	.700	208	208
Tennessee	7	3	0	.700	279	259
Houston	3	7	0	.300	227	272
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	202	298

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	10	0	1.000	.298	174	
Cleveland	7	3	0	.700	238	261
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	268	195
Cincinnati	2	7	1	.250	213	270

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	1	0	.900	321	214
Las Vegas	6	4	0	.600	286	276
Denver	4	6	0	.400	267	267
L.A. Chargers	3	7	0	.300	260	273

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

|--|--|

Daughter dishes out criticism but can't take it from mom

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I kindly and lovingly gave my daughter some feedback on how she berates her husband in front of my 8-year-old grandson. I told her I didn't want him to grow up thinking that's how we treat the people we love. To make a long story short, she said that if I wanted to estrange myself from her, I had succeeded. I remained calm and loving and told her she could use the feedback if it was helpful, or ignore it if it wasn't. She has now blocked me!

My daughter has had no compunction over the years about informing me about my shortcomings, but went into a rage when I spoke about her behavior. Although it breaks my heart that my daughter has cut me out of her life, my real concern is losing contact with my grandson. Fortunately, my son-in-law is still relaying messages to him, but what about when I want to visit my grandson? I have always stayed with my daughter and her family.

— Heartbroken In Another State

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You may have hit the nail on the head, but you must have also struck a nerve for your daughter to have reacted so strongly. Staying with her may be off the table until she cools off, but visits with your grandson may still be possible if her husband can arrange it. Not knowing your son-in-law, I can only guess that it may be just a matter of time until he tires of your daughter's verbal abuse and exits the marriage, but if they separate, it may make access to your grandchild easier for you.

DEAR ABBY: Several of us lady friends get together periodically over coffee to catch up. We haven't seen each other since the pandemic began, but I'm thinking of inviting them to my backyard for a socially distanced get-together.

One of them is very political and dominates the conversation with her opinions and observations. Because of it, I'm considering not including her. I don't want to cause hard feelings, but I don't know what to do — not have the gathering, lay out ground rules or put up with her political spewing? Your thoughts would be appreciated. — Missing My Friends In California

DEAR MISSING: Deal with it by leaving the choice of whether to attend up to this amateur pundit. Keep it alcohol-free and explain that you want the conversation to be "light" and strictly social, which is why you do not want the subject of politics to be mentioned. At all. It will then be up to her to decide which is more important: her soapbox or some much-needed relaxing conversation.

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends
and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom
and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances
stir us to service,

That Thy gifts to us may be
used for others.

Amen.

Have a safe, happy and so-

cially distanced celebration,

everyone! — Love, Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



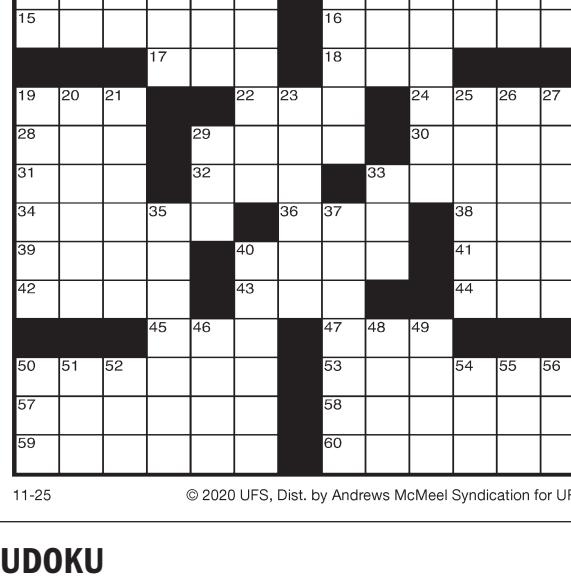
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Worker's dread
- 7 She played Jessica
- 13 Manuscript fixer
- 14 Trusted
- 15 Try to achieve
- 16 Stretched to see
- 17 Stockholm carrier
- 18 Log-squaring tool (var.)
- 19 Expert
- 22 New England catch
- 24 Debtors' notes
- 28 Spanish gentleman
- 29 Certain basketball defense
- 30 Ocean bird
- 31 California's Fort —
- 32 Is, to Fritz
- 33 Shrimp
- 34 Sell for
- 36 Potato st.
- 38 In addition
- 39 Overhang

DOWN

- 1 Grazing area
- 2 Magazine fillers
- 3 Small bark
- 4 Redding or Skinner
- 5 Roman market-places
- 6 Wall paintings
- 7 Pinball palace
- 8 Brain, maybe
- 9 Window fixer
- 10 German article
- 11 Kung fu expert
- 12 Write more
- 19 Unfired bricks
- 20 Stock holder
- 21 Chicory
- 23 Punctual (2 wds.)
- 25 Made a speech
- 26 Brand-new
- 27 Mexicali matron
- 29 Quick turn
- 33 Walk softly
- 35 Very young
- 37 Fail to follow orders
- 40 Detain
- 46 Before
- 48 View from an oasis
- 49 Is, in Segovia
- 50 River tamer
- 51 Role for Madonna
- 52 Entreat
- 54 La Brea — pits
- 55 Diamond —
- 56 Famous English cathedral town



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Answer to Previous Puzzle

SPAM	RED	AVOW
ALLY	YOU	LIRE
GOON	ECLIPSED	
PEAR	ELF	EOS
HOTNESS		
PET	VEER	ACRE
INURED		CHAN
TYRO	BIKINI	
HAND	ELAN	ADD
ENGLAND		
APT	IRAS	SEAL
PROBLEMS		CIAO
SALE	SAO	ADZE
OMEN	SSN	LEER

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	7	6	1	9	4	2	5	3
2	5	3	6	7	8	1	4	9
9	1	4	5	3	2	7	6	8
1	4	5	2	6	3	9	8	7
6	9	8	4	1	7	3	2	5
7	3	2	8	5	9	4	1	6
3	8	1	9	2	6	5	7	4
5	6	7	3	4	1	8	9	2
4	2	9	7	8	5	6	3	1

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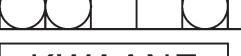
JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

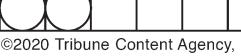
BROOT



LIEDY



PNRSIG



KWAANE



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I think this route is the fastest.
What do you think about the scenic route instead?

BEFORE THEY CHOSE A ROUTE TO TRAVEL, THEY LOOKED AT THE MAP TO ---

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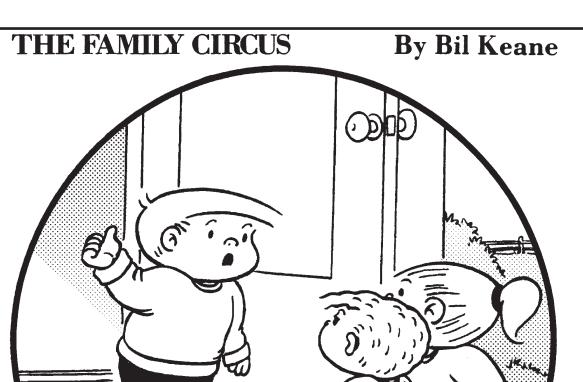
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Saturday's Jumbles: STRUM GULLY KITTEN MINNOW

Answer: When the mammoths worked on several experiments at once, they were — "MULTI-TUSKING"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

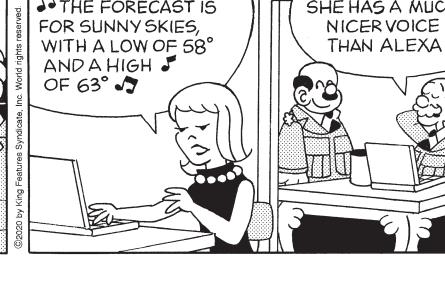
By Bil Keane



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"The kitchen smelled delicious until Mommy said it's 'cause she's cookin' beets."

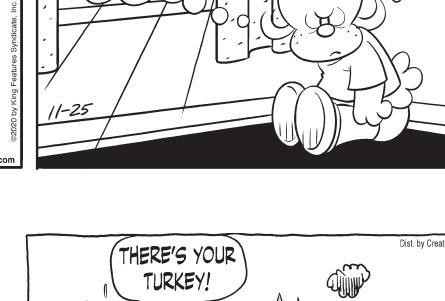
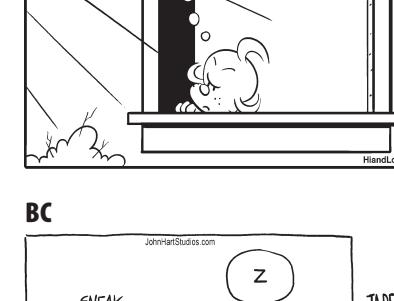
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: While the Abraham Accords sounds hopeful, is it true that peace could really be brought to

that part of the world when the rest of the world seems to be in tur-

moil? — P.T.

Billy Graham

My Answer



in any lasting way until the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ,

comes and rules and reigns in our world. The world doesn't give peace, for it doesn't have any peace to give. It fights for

peace, it negotiates for peace, but

there is no ultimate peace in the world. To be a peace-

maker, we must know the Peace-Giver.

Our future does not hinge

on the world's situation, how-

ever grim it might become.

It depends solely on what

happened over 2,000 years ago at the cross and peoples'

acceptance or rejection of the Prince of Peace.

For people who have sub-

mitted their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,

there is coming a day where

they will see the Prince of

Peace reign in the New Jeru-

usalem. God's glory will illu-

mine every street and we will

walk in the peace of His pres-

ence. May every soul read-

ing this declaration give their

hearts to the King of kings to-

day. Jesus said, "These things

I have spoken to you, that in

Me you may have peace" (John 16:33).

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Winkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the news-paper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Trump whiffs on what's left of his presidency

No one expected President Donald Trump to be as gracious in defeat as was George H.W. Bush in 1992, the last time an incumbent was defeated. And perhaps only the starry-eyed would think Trump might implement a more aggressive pandemic response now that the numbers are surging again.

Even so, in the past couple of weeks, unable to face reality and unwilling to concede his election loss to Joe Biden, Trump has sunk to new levels of depravity and narcissism.

Rather than making the best of the situation, Trump spends his days golfing, concocting plots to overturn the election results, firing top officials who question him, planning how he might remain a kingmaker, and tweeting with the emotional clarity of a toddler left alone in his shopping cart.

What he doesn't do is exhibit concern for the more than a quarter of a million Americans who have died of COVID-19 or come up with a plan to thwart its advance as winter comes and people move indoors.

To a large degree, this is merely a continuation of what we have seen all year. From the beginning, Trump has downplayed the deadliness of the pandemic and undercut the work of health professionals trying to limit its impact. He flouted social

distancing rules, fed conspiracy theories, promoted quack cures, and allowed the White House and campaign rallies to become superspread venues.

The United States, with 4 percent of the world's population, now accounts for nearly 20 percent of global COVID-19 deaths, with a mortality rate that is 2 1/2 times Canada's and nearly five times Germany's.

President Donald Trump was at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia, on Nov. 15, 2020.

By refusing to allow President-elect Biden to begin his transition, Trump is ensuring that America's grossly ineffective pandemic response continues into the first part of next year as the Biden team struggles to get its footing.

Such spite and malice, on top of months of incompetence, is unheard of in American history.

Now, more than ever, the government needs to act proactively and speak with one voice. It needs to urge people to continue with basic public health measures, such as wearing masks and social distancing, with the encouragement that if they can just get through the next few months, vaccines will be coming in the new year.

More important, Washington needs to be planning for a fast rollout of the new vaccines, the vast major-

ity of which will be administered during the Biden administration.

Operation Warp Speed, the rapid vaccine development program, is shaping up as the most successful aspect of the Trump administration's coronavirus response. But rather than focus on implementation, Trump is busy settling scores and mounting a campaign to discredit a free election.

On Tuesday, he fired his cyber security chief, Christopher Krebs, who had refuted Trump's baseless claims of widespread voter fraud. This came on top of his firing of Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who had resisted the commander in chief's efforts to withdraw troops and politicize the military. Never mind that these vital national security vacancies leave America vulnerable.

The truth is, Trump has spent much of his life failing at business while convincing people that he was successful.

Now he is doing something similar with his presidency. Rather than spending his final days trying to do something positive for the country and his legacy, he is hunkered down at the White House, tweeting a storm of grievance and self-congratulation. Even with someone as low as Trump, we would have expected just a little bit more.

This editorial was first published in USA Today.

'Defund the police' and the damage done

Remember the debate over the meaning of the phrase "defund the police"? Repeated over and over on the progressive left, it seemed pretty clear – it meant that cities should no longer fund, and thus effectively abolish, their police forces. But some Democrats worried that embracing such a radical proposal might hurt them politically, so they suggested that it actually meant re-directing some, but not all, funds from police to things like mental health treatment and affordable housing.

Nothing too radical.

Every time Democrats thought they had limited the political damage done by a literal interpretation of "defund the police," some progressive voice would mess it all up. For example, in June, The New York Times published an op-ed headlined, "Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police." It meant what it said.

In the recent campaign, many Republicans sought to tie their Democratic opponents to efforts to defund the police. It drove House Democrats running in fairly conservative districts nuts.

"The No. 1 concern that people brought to me in my race, that I barely won, was defunding the police," said Virginia Democratic Rep. Abigail Spanberger on a conference call with Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "And I've heard from colleagues who say, 'Oh, it's the language of the streets, we should respect that.' We're in Congress. We are professionals. We are supposed to talk about things in the way where we mean what we are talking about. If we don't mean we should defund the police, we shouldn't say that." Another House Democrat, Rep. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, recently said it more succinctly: "Defund police, open borders, socialism – it's killing us."

But that's just politics. The tragic thing is, the cause of defunding the police is killing real people. Look at a new report in The Washington Post from Minneapolis, one of the nation's centers of anti-police activism: "Minneapolis violence surges as police officers leave department in droves."

"Homicides in Minneapolis are up 50 percent," the paper reported, "with 75 people killed across the city so far this year. More than 500 people have been shot, the highest number in more than a decade and twice as many as 2019. And there have been more than 4,600 violent crimes – including hundreds of carjackings and robberies – a five-year high."

Remember that on June 26, the Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously to abolish the city's police department and create something called the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, which would provide "public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach."

It was, to put it bluntly, a crazy idea. But that's what the council did. Since that time, the effort has faltered and all but collapsed. But the police got the message. Officers began retiring in record numbers. While the city has budgeted for 888 officers, more than 100 have retired this year – according to the Post, more than double the normal rate. More are in the process of leaving. The number of officers available to patrol the streets has decreased dramatically. And that means less response to reports of crime. And that means more crime.

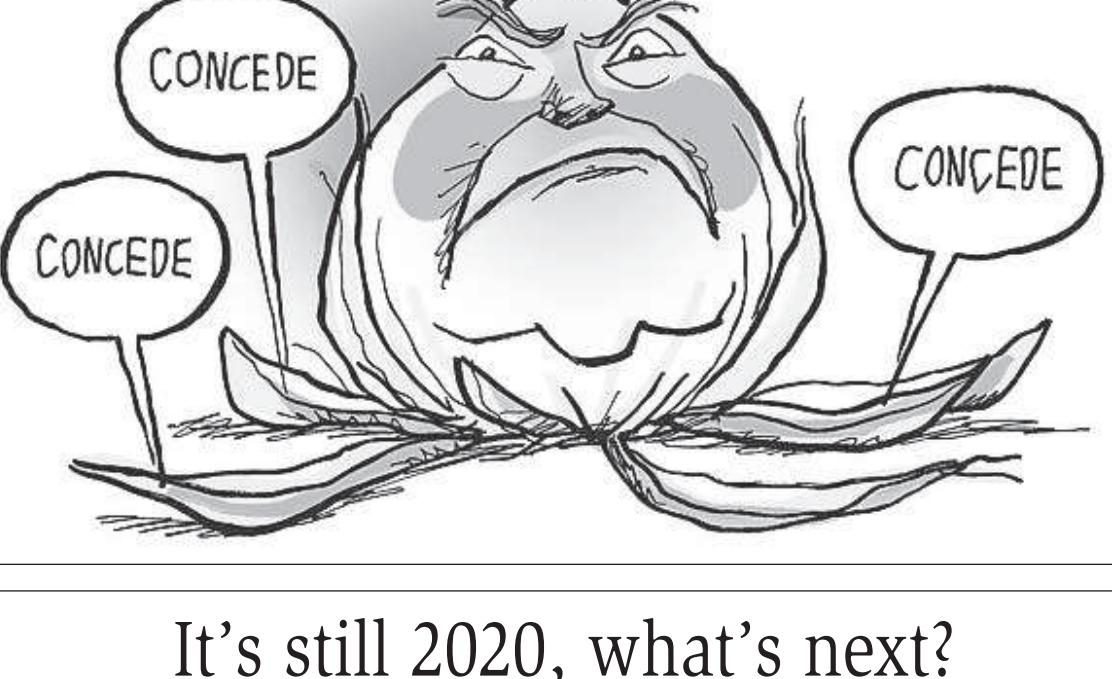
"The police are not as much a presence as they used to be," one community activist told the Post, which added that "sometimes when neighbors call 911, officers are delayed in responding or don't come at all." Last week the police chief went to the city council to plead for more money. "Our city is bleeding," he said. "At this moment, I'm trying to do all I can to stop that bleeding."

Now – get this – the same council that voted unanimously to abolish the police force voted to give nearly \$500,000 in emergency funding to allow for the hiring of temporary officers to get the city through the end of the year. After that, who knows what will happen.

The Minneapolis council is a case study of progressive Democratic governance in action. President Trump spent part of his campaign warning against it. He lost. Republican congressional candidates also warned against it and did better, although not well enough to win control of the House. Now an incoming Democratic administration will include in its ranks the same variety of progressives who have done so much damage in Minneapolis and elsewhere. That will be the new reality of the Biden administration.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

THE ONION IS PEELING...



It's still 2020, what's next?

It's such a perfect little story to illustrate this awful, awful year of the pandemic, cities overtaken by anarchy and an election from hell.

A deer jumped through a window into an empty classroom

at Blackhawk Middle School in Fort Wayne. After trashing the room for 45 minutes, the deer jumped back through the window and ran away. Spokeswoman Krista Stockman said that while the situation was surprising, "it's 2020."

It's 2020.

That should be added to the catalog of verbal shrugs we use to stoically accept our fate in an indifferent universe where anything can happen.

"That's the way the cookie crumbles."

"C'est la vie."

"Que será, será."

"Forget it, Jake, it's Chinatown."

"Well, it's 2020."

Oh, no, the virus is back, bigger than ever!

Well, it is 2020.

Harry and Meagan left the royal family but won't shut up!

What do you expect in 2020?

Dear God, now we have murder hornets!

Hey, it's 2020.

Can you believe this, Indiana actually stomped Michigan in football?"

Oh, sure, it's 2020.

I'm thinking of the scene in the great American movie "Groundhog Day" in which Phil the self-centered weatherman is bitterly complaining about the day that won't ever end.

"I was in the Virgin Islands once. I met a girl. We ate lobster, drank piña coladas. At sunset we made love like sea otters. That was a pretty good day. Why couldn't I get that day over and over and over?"

For us, this is the year that won't ever end

I remember a year fondly – it was 1974.

I was a newly minted journalism graduate, fresh out of Ball State University and winning two first-place awards from the Hoosier State Press Association. My wife and I had a small house with a big garden on the south side of Wabash. My parents came to visit us from Fort Wayne, and my father was still vigorous in middle age.

That was a pretty good year. Why couldn't I get that year over and over and over?

But, no, it has to be 2020, in which every day is the same as the last day, only a little worse, and the next day will be the same as this day, only a little worse.

I imagine all of us waking up on Jan. 1, eager to get a reset and start with a blank slate on a brand-new year. But we will hear the same song on the radio we heard yesterday morning and realize 2021 has not arrived as scheduled. This year will just go on and on until, like Phil the weatherman, we learn whatever lesson the universe is trying to teach us.

We will be better people, kinder and more tolerant. We will respect each other's differences and search for common ground. We will strive to build up, not tear down.

Yeah, sure, if we were born yesterday, which was really today.

Personally, I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop. I think there is one more unbelievable, unpre-

dented, stupendous event to come. When it happens, the logjam will break, and we can leave this awful year behind.

A surprising number of people agree with me, but we differ on what that event might be.

Some think it will be a natural disaster so big it will devour a whole country or cause California to break off and fall into the ocean. Some think a terrorist group might finally use a nuclear weapon, touching off World War 3. Some religiously motivated think it might even be the Second Coming.

Me, I think aliens will land.

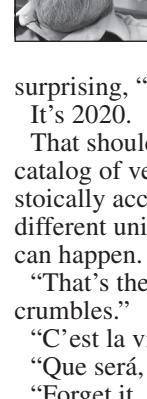
Sure, be skeptical. But the Pentagon this year officially released three videos showing compelling footage of UFOs, and it was announced that the UFO task force will start doing more in public instead of in the shadows. This, after decades of strident denials. I think they're trying to soften us up for the big day when we discover We Are Not Alone.

But the aliens – or Undocumented Extraterrestrials, if you will – will land, some will say to enlighten and guide us and some will say to conquer and enslave us, take a quick look around, decide it isn't worth the trouble, and take off in less than an hour, like ...

... well, like a deer crashing back through a classroom window and escaping into the woods. Forty-five minutes is about as much of 2020 as an advanced civilization might be able to tolerate.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoeditz@yahoo.com.

Leo Morris



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

OBITUARIES

Edwin B. Wyatt Jr.

Dec. 19, 1954 - Sept. 14, 1974



Jane Fickling Hale McSpadden, 79, North Manchester, Indiana, passed away on November 23, 2020 at Peabody Healthcare Center, North Manchester.

The loving memory of Jane McSpadden will be forever cherished by her husband, Larry McSpadden, Fishers, Indiana; son, Charles D. (Sarah) Hale, Garland, Texas; step-children, Helen Diana (Rick Todd) McSpadden, Williamsburg, Virginia, Lore (Christine) Walker-McSpadden, Rochester, New York, and Kevin (Mira) Ginger, Portland, Oregon; step-grandchildren, Harper, Boone, Holden, and Margaret.

A private celebration of Jane Fickling Hale McSpadden's life will be held at a later date. The family of Jane McSpadden has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

Carl L. Easterday Sr.

Funeral services for Carl L. Easterday Sr., 79, of Wabash, will be at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Burial will be in Friends Cemetery, Wabash. Visitation will be from 1-2 pm Wednesday.

See more obituaries on Page A3

Justice Alito on America's First Amendment wars

Almost a half-century ago, comedian George Carlin recorded his controversial "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" monologue.

Terry Mattingly That was then. "Today, it would be easy to create a new list entitled, 'Things you can't say if you are a student or a professor at a college or university, or an employee of many big corporations.' And there wouldn't be just seven items on that list – 70 times seven would be closer to the mark," said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, via Zoom, at the recent Federalist Society National Lawyers Convention.

Discussing religious beliefs, he argued, has become especially dangerous.

"You can't say that marriage is the union between one man and one woman," he noted. "Until very recently, that's what the vast majority of Americans thought. Now it's considered bigotry."

Consider, for example, the case of Jack Denton, a Florida State University political science major whose long-range plans include law school.

In June, he participated in a Catholic Student Union online chat in which, after the death of George Floyd, someone promoted a fund-raising project supporting BlackLivesMatter.com, the American Civil Liberties Union and similar groups. Denton criticized the ACLU's support for wider access to abortion and the BLM group's "What We Believe" page on its website that, at that time, pledged support for LGBTQ rights and efforts to disrupt "nuclear family"

traditions.

"As a Catholic speaking to other Catholics," Denton said, "I felt compelled to point out the discrepancy between what these groups stand for and what the Catholic Church teaches. So, I did."

Denton didn't expect this private discussion to affect his work as president of the FSU Student Senate. However, an outraged student took screenshots of his texts and sent them to the Student Senate. That led to petitions claiming that he was unfit to serve, a painful six-hour special meeting and his forced exit.

Backed by Alliance Defending Freedom, a faith-based nonprofit, Denton sued the university for violating his First Amendment rights, as well as campus policies against discrimination against religious believers. A student court returned him, briefly, to office in late October, after a federal judge ruled that FSU should pay him lost wages. Denton graduates in December.

"This whole experience has certainly perked my interest in studying constitutional law and First Amendment rights, in particular," said Denton, reached by telephone.

Denton isn't alone. Alito, in his Federalist Society address, stressed that it is now common to hear students and professors, including many in law schools, express fears about the consequences of being honest about their religious convictions.

"It pains me to say this, but in certain quarters, religious liberty is fast becoming a disfavored right, and that marks a surprising turn of events," said Alito. "Consider where things stood in the 1990s – and, to me at least, that does not seem like the Jurassic Age," he said, referring to bipartisan efforts to pass

the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The bill passed on a 97-3 vote in the Senate, received unanimous support in the House and was signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993.

"Today that wide support has vanished," said the Supreme Court justice. "When states have considered or gone ahead and adopted their own versions of RFRA, they have been threatened with punishing economic boycotts. ..."

"For many today, religious liberty is not a cherished freedom," he continued. "It's often just an excuse for bigotry and it can't be tolerated, even when there is no evidence that anybody has been harmed. ... The question we face is whether our society will be inclusive enough to tolerate people with unpopular religious beliefs."

As an example of these sentiments, Alito quoted an online commentary by Harvard Law School Professor Mark Tushnet in which he stated: "The culture wars are over; they lost, we won. ... For liberals, the question now is how to deal with the losers in the culture wars."

Tensions about controversial religious issues have, of course, spread to other battle lines in American life, he said. At this point, the entire First Amendment has become controversial.

"One of the great challenges for the Supreme Court going forward will be to protect freedom of speech," said Alito. "Although that freedom is falling out of favor in some circles, we need to do whatever we can to prevent it from becoming a second-tier constitutional right."

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

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Manchester freezes tuition for 2021-22 academic year

All degree-seeking undergraduates at Manchester receive financial aid

By ANNE GREGORY

President Dave McFadden announced today that Manchester University is freezing undergraduate tuition for the 2021-22 school year, another step it is taking to ensure affordability and predictability for students and families.

"We understand that the pandemic and related economic uncertainties are creating financial anxiety for many students and their families. By announcing our tuition decision now, we can help ease those concerns and allow everyone to plan for the academic year ahead. This tuition freeze is simply the right thing to do for our students and their families," he said.

"Our students – many of whom are the first in their family to go to college – work hard to pay for their education. Every dollar matters. By freezing tuition for a year, we make it that much easier to fulfill our mission of graduating people of ability and conviction who will go on to make a positive difference in the world."

All degree-seeking undergraduates at Manchester receive financial aid, and it ranks among the best in the state and nation for providing financial aid.

"We continue to look for ways to make a university degree more obtainable," McFadden said.

The tuition freeze applies to all undergrada-



Provided photos

All degree-seeking undergraduates at Manchester receive financial aid.



The tuition freeze applies to all undergraduate students, as well as students in the Master of Athletic Training program.

Based on that success, students in the Master of Athletic Training, Master of Accountancy and Master of Pharmacogenomics programs. Students in the Pharmacy Program will see a modest 1 percent tuition increase, which is in line with other pharmacy programs across the nation.

This announcement is yet another step taken by McFadden and university leadership to provide as much clarity as possible for students and their families.

For this year's first-year students, Manchester offered the Spartan 2020 Response to COVID-19, which eliminated out-of-pocket tuition expenses for about 100 first-year students.

McFadden thanked the admissions and finance offices for their work in making this happen.

"Everyone at Manchester has been making sacrifices,

and I am grateful for their dedication to our mission," he said.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

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Six providers, including one in North Manchester, join Lutheran Health Physicians

Shelly Prichard, FNP, is a primary care provider who cares for men, women, children

STAFF REPORT

Lutheran Health Physicians recently welcomed six new providers, who specialize in the areas of neurointerventional surgery, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery and family medicine, according to Joy Lohse, director of community relations and strategic events.

Providers include:

Shelly Prichard, FNP, Family Medicine

Located at 605 N. Walnut St., North Manchester, Shelly Prichard, FNP, is a primary care provider who cares for men, women and children of all ages. She provides preventive and chronic care, and also treats various acute illnesses. Prichard earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Ball State University, her master's degree in nursing education from the University of Phoenix and her family nurse practitioner certificate from Graceland University.

Caitlin Adams, NP, Family Medicine

Caitlin Adams, NP, is a prima-

ry care nurse practitioner located at 7938 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, who provides preventive and chronic care for men, women and children of all ages. She also treats patients with various acute illnesses. Adams earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Huntington University and her master's degree in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. She is a member of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses of Northeast Indiana, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Jordan Goodwin, PA-C, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

Jordan Goodwin, PA-C, is a certified physician assistant located at 7910 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 102, Fort Wayne, with LHP's cardiovascular and thoracic surgery team who primarily assists physicians performing surgeries related to the heart, lungs and major blood vessels. Goodwin graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in cellular biology from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. He completed his master's degree in physician assistant studies from Bethel University in Tennessee, where he focused on interventional cardiology, inpatient cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery.

Goodwin is a member of the Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Michelle Garl, FNP-C, Family Medicine

Michelle Garl, FNP-C, is a certified family nurse practitioner located at 107 W. Pickwick Drive, Suite A, Syracuse, providing preventive care services and treating patients with various chronic and acute illnesses at LHP's Syracuse Walk-in Clinic. Garl earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from IUPUI and a master's degree through the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Ball State University in Muncie. She is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana.

Christopher Gullett, MD, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

Christopher Gullett, MD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon located at 7910 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 102, Fort Wayne, caring for patients requiring advanced cardiovascular and thoracic procedures. Dr. Gullett earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He com-

pleted a general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Center in Houston. While at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Dr. Gullett completed a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship, including an extra year focused on heart failure, cardiac transplant and mechanical assist devices. His training in Texas also included six months of surgical oncology training at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Gullett is a member of the Cool-ey Hands Society, Cardiothoracic Surgery Network, Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Heart Failure Society of America.

Tyler Warnecke, PA-C, Neurointerventional Surgery

As a member of LHP's neurointerventional surgery team, Tyler Warnecke, PA-C, a certified physician assistant, located at 7910 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 120, Fort Wayne, assists surgeons with procedures related to brain aneurysms, head and neck bleeding, carotid stenosis or stroke. Warnecke earned his bachelor's degree in nuclear medicine technology with a minor in biology from the University of Findlay in Ohio. He later completed a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Warnecke is a fellow member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Wabash Co. Tobacco Free Coalition director honored

Daniel Gray recognized for 'community efforts' by ISDH and TPC

STAFF REPORT

On behalf of his peers, local grantees of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (TPC) agency recently named Daniel Gray, Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition director, as the 2020 recipient of the "Joy of Smoke Free Passion Award," according to Shirley Dubois, Howard County Tobacco Free coordinator.

The award was presented in recognition of the late Joy Edwards, "whose passion and commitment to the state's smoke-free movement was unparalleled, according to colleagues who knew her best," said Dubois.

Before her untimely death in 2007, Edwards served as the lead tobacco free prevention coordinator for Howard County. In that role, she helped secure the passage of a smoke-free workplace ordinance in 2006. As of 2017, Kokomo and Howard County adopted a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance.

"Joy's personality and spirit lit up a room the instant she would walk in, and her charm and passion helped drive the ordinance to its passage... she simply wouldn't give up and I can't think of a better way to continue honoring her memory than for her peers to present this award and, in doing so, honor the achievements of our partners who are making Indiana smoke-free one community at a time," said Miranda Spitznagle, TPC executive director.

Spitznagle said in receiving the award, Dan was honored for his dedication and service as the tobacco free control coordinator for Wabash County, a position he has held for the past 15 years.

"His efforts are reflected in the strong and vital coalition that exists today in Wabash County; an organization that continues to meet and stay active and was responsible for the recent adoption of a smoke-free air law for the city of North Manchester," said Spitznagle.

Gray said for his part, he is humbled by the recognition.

"It is such an honor to have received this award, as Joy Edwards was such an incredible and inspiring person," said Gray. "To have been nominated and chosen by my peers throughout the State of Indiana for this award is the greatest honor. I have been blessed with such a supportive family, friends, colleagues and coalition partners to have worked with over the past 15 years."

Gray said he draws his enthusiasm for being involved in tobacco control from his family and the effects tobacco use has had on them.

"My family has been profoundly affected by the effects of tobacco use, as I have lost so many loved ones due to the devastating health consequences of smoking, including my father," said Gray. "When this opportunity arose in the community in which I live and work, I felt that this was a way that I could perhaps in some way, help other families change this pattern in their lives."

Dubois said as part of his work, Gray has been instrumental in helping to guide many young students in the community. As a result, their efforts have helped young people locally never start using tobacco including e-cigarettes.

"The youth I have been privileged to work with, give me much inspiration as to the future of our community, and should give us all reason to be very hopeful," said Gray.

This year's announcement marks the fifth time the award has been presented as part of the statewide Tobacco Control Partner Information Exchange conference hosted by TPC.

Dubois and her coalition received the award in 2018.

Spitznagle said the award is given to a coalition coordinator who is nominated and selected by their peers. The criteria for the award are they must have been a coordinator for at least three years, they must currently be working on or have a smoke free policy in their community, and demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and social skills and be a positive influence on the youth in their community.

"Joy's work continues every day with our 42 community partners statewide...and that's a testament to what she would be doing was she here with us and, that I believe, is the most fitting tribute of all," said Spitznagle.

Christians in the Middle East need us

Archbishop Bashar Warda is a man of hope, humility, courage and defiance. Christians will stay in the Middle East, like it or not, he says – even if there is little or no room for them among Muslim leaders in the region.

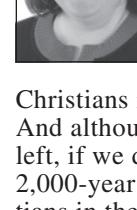
"Chilling" doesn't begin to describe listening to Warda talking about the threat to his people in that troubled part of the world. Speaking virtually from Erbil, Iraq, he delivered his message to the fifth annual New York-based conference on international religious liberty sponsored by the AngloSphere Society, among others, titled "Act in Time: Protecting Imperiled Christians in Ancient and Other Lands."

In the years since the Islamic state forced his flock into exile in Kurdistan, Warda has labored to minister, to give families healing and confidence that there is a future for them in their homeland. But the fact of the matter is that there won't be if more of the world doesn't pay attention.

There were over 1 million Christians in Iraq before our war there began in 2003, and there are now fewer than 150,000.

"The sand has nearly run out in the hourglass that is Chris-

Kathryn Lopez



tianity in Iraq," is how Stephen M. Rasche, vice chancellor of the Catholic University in Erbil, describes the situation in his book "The Disappearing People: The Tragic Fate of Christians in the Middle East."

And although there is still time left, if we don't act now, the 2,000-year presence of Christians in the Middle East will come to an end on our watch. But if any responsible, effective plan of action is to occur, it will need to be based in new thinking, which admits the reality of the situation, unclouded by Western aspirational paradigms and the knee-jerk tendency to resort to claims of phobias and bias, which serve only to obscure the truth."

Rasche is an American, who, with my late friend Andrew Walther, established the Institute for Ancient and Threatened Christianity. In the last days of Walther's life – he died shortly before his 46th birthday of leukemia – he was on the phone

with Rasche, working on edits to some witness testimony about the precarious life of a Christian in Nigeria. As one of the speakers at the conference put it, 11 Nigerians were beheaded last year on Christmas Day – did we notice? Do we care? Do we do anything about it?

Walther and Rasche were supposed to go to Nigeria this spring, but the coronavirus pandemic did that trip in.

Walther was an incredible friend to the persecuted, helping with everything from basic needs to working to save villages and doing diplomatic work. We must let his example inspire us to carry on his work.

The most shocking and yet unsurprising thing that Archbishop Warda said at the conference, which was dedicated to Walther, was to share with us his fear as he watches the growing hostility to religion in the United States. He knows how that story ends. He's living it. These things are the calling card of tyranny, he said. We must learn from him and be lovingly defiant in the face of it.

There's an urgency to this problem and it's one we have to

find a solution to – as a nation, for all who value freedom. As Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan of New York put it in his rallying keynote at the conference, the Middle Eastern Christians' suffering must be our suffering.

Dolan, who is the new head of the U.S. Catholic bishops' committee on religious liberty, brought with him an icon of the Egyptian Coptic Christian martyrs who were beheaded by ISIS in Libya in 2015. He remembered in particular the one martyr who wasn't Christian, who said he wanted to be the faith that the other men were. Dolan said he does, too. We must live up to the ideals of our religion and work to improve the world. Do something for persecuted people before 2020 ends. And give thanks for our blessings, even in the midst of struggle.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book "A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living." She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Thanksgiving could make or break virus response

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

In Pennsylvania, if you're having friends over to socialize, you're supposed to wear a mask – and so are your friends. That's the rule, but Barb Chestnut has no intention of following it.

"No one is going to tell me what I can or not do in my own home," said Chestnut, 60, of Shippensburg.

"They do not pay my bills and they are not going to tell me what to do."

As governors and mayors grapple with an out-of-control pandemic, they are ratcheting up mask mandates and imposing restrictions on small indoor gatherings, which have been blamed for accelerating the spread of the coronavirus. But while such measures carry the weight of law, they are, in practical terms, unenforceable, and officials are banking on voluntary compliance instead.

Good luck with that.

While many are undoubtedly heeding public health advice – downsizing Thanksgiving plans, avoiding get-togethers, wearing masks when they're around people who don't live with them – it's inevitable that a segment of the population will blow off new state and local restrictions and socialize anyway. Experts say that could put greater stress on overburdened hospitals and lead to an even bigger spike in sickness and death over the holidays.

"When this started in early March, we weren't staring at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and we didn't have the disease reservoir that we have. And that, to me, is the biggest concern in the next few weeks," said Dr. David Rubin,

the director of PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He called the risk of a Thanksgiving spike "extremely high."

"I think you're seeing a lot of resistance here," Rubin said. "I can't speculate on what people are going to do, but I can say that to the degree that there isn't a collective buy-in here, it sort of blunts the impact of the measures themselves."

The nation is averaging 172,000 new virus cases per day, nearly doubling since the end of October, according to Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations, deaths and the testing positivity rate are also up sharply as the nation approaches Thanksgiving.

In response, elected officials are imposing restrictions that, with some exceptions, fall short of the broad-based stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns seen in the spring.

Utah and Vermont have banned all social gatherings. So have local governments in Philadelphia and Dane County, Wisconsin. In Kentucky, no more than eight people from two households are permitted to get together; in Oregon, the gathering limit is six. California has imposed an overnight curfew. More states are requiring masks, including those with GOP governors who have long resisted them. The nation's top health officials are pleading with Americans to avoid Thanksgiving travel.

There's some evidence the holiday will be quieter.

Tamika Hickson, who co-owns

a party rental business in Philadelphia, said Thanksgiving was a bust even before her city moved to prohibit indoor gatherings of any size.

"Nobody's calling," Hickson said. "A lot of people lost a lot of loved ones, so they're not playing with this. And I don't blame them."

AAA projects Thanksgiving travel will fall by at least 10 percent, which would be the steepest one-year plunge since the Great Recession in 2008. But that still means tens of millions of people on the road. On social media, people defiantly talk about their Thanksgiving plans, arguing that nothing will stop them from seeing friends and family.

More than 1 million people thronged U.S. airports on Sunday, according to the Transportation Security Administration – the highest number since the beginning of the pandemic.

Dr. Debra Bogen, the health director for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which includes Pittsburgh, said that too many have been ignoring public health guidance and that the result has been unchecked spread of the virus.

"For the past few weeks, I've asked people to follow the rules, curtail gatherings and parties, stay home except for essentials, and wear masks. I'm done asking," Bogen said at a news conference, her frustration palpable. She announced a stay-at-home advisory that she said would turn into an order if people didn't comply.

Some people are underestimating the risk to themselves and their friends and families, said Baruch Fischhoff, a Carnegie Mellon University psychologist who has written about COVID-19 risk analysis and communications.

Others doubt what health officials are telling them about the virus. And still others are simply irresponsible.

Fischhoff said the lack of a cohesive national pandemic strategy; patchwork and seemingly arbitrary restrictions at the state and local level; and ineffective, politicized and contradictory public health messaging have sown confusion and mistrust.

"It has been a colossal, tragic failure of leadership from the very beginning that we didn't find the common ground in which we were working to protect the weakest among us. And once you've lost that coordination, you're scrambling to get it back and that's the tragic mess that we're in now," he said.

In York County, Pennsylvania, 51-year-old retail worker Kori Jess tested positive for the virus last week. Long a mask skeptic, her personal experience with COVID-19 has changed her opinion – to a point. She said it's appropriate to wear a mask when circumstances warrant, but she still doesn't like the idea of government mandating them.

"I'm so torn," Jess said. "I like that people are fighting for their freedoms, but I understand why people are wearing masks."

In upstate New York, some sheriffs say they have no intention of enforcing Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo's recent mandate barring private gatherings of more than 10 people.

"There is no need to hide cars and sneak around during your attempt to gather with family. We are not going to exhaust our limited resources obtaining search warrants and counting the turkey eaters in your house," Madison County Sheriff Todd Hood said in a Facebook post.

He encouraged people in the largely rural area to use common sense to keep themselves safe.

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